

January 7, 2014

Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman
Office of Administrative Hearings
600 North Robert Street
P.O. Box 64620
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164

To Administrative Law Judge Eric L. Lipman:

On behalf of NAMI Minnesota (the National Alliance on Mental Illness), we are submitting these comments regarding proposed amendments to Minnesota Permanent Rules Relating to Elections. NAMI Minnesota is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families. Nearly 100% of our board and staff either live with a mental illness or have a family member with a mental illness.

We strongly support changes to Minnesota Rules 8200.5100, subpart 1, clause E and subpart 2, clause A, which would clarify processes for vouching by staff at residential facilities. Vouching by residential facility staff helps ensure that people receiving residential mental health services are still able to exercise their right to vote. Clarifying and expanding the means by which residential facility staff can demonstrate proof of employment will reduce confusion among organizations operating these facilities and make it easier for their staff to vouch for clients who would not otherwise be able to participate in the electoral process.

NAMI Minnesota appreciates the opportunity to comment on these rules. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director

Matt Burdick
Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator